Joseph Bilde Bishop McDevitt High School Grade 9 Third Place

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has left a lasting impression on the world, on the country, and on myself.

As an American citizen, I will support and demonstrate his teachings in the following manner. I will solve differences using reasoning, as opposed to violence, as Dr. King used Mohandas Gandhi's teachings of non-violent protest, known as "Satyagraha." As Dr. King was a clergyman, and received a doctoral degree in systematic theology, I will be more openly religious, and use my knowledge of religion to help others with dilemmas.

By voicing my opinions and beliefs openly, as Dr. King did using his superb speaking skills, I can help others understand my perspective, inspiring others to have their own opinions as well. As Martin Luther King, Jr. related Christian theology to the struggles of oppressed people, I will pray for the homeless, helpless, and oppressed. In 1957, King helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, where he became president. To reflect this, I can motivate others to stand up for what is right and what they believe in.

I may choose to attend and participate in marches, demonstrations, and boycotts, as Dr. King had joined as well as started them. He exposed police brutality, I will do the same, and also expose mistreatment based on economic or political rankings, such as Saddam Hussein against his own people. I want to help uncover, attack, and annul biased laws; such as King thought people have the right and responsibility to disobey unjust

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laws. I aim to strive for peace between countries, populations, and individuals, as Dr. King did, and received a Nobel Prize in 1964.

As he had publicly criticized the American foreign policy in Vietnam, I plan to oppose war, and defy it if we have no part in it, but am participating anyway, much like the Vietnam War. As he also fought to get national lawmakers to address the issue of economic injustice in the Poor People's Campaign, I am able to fight for economic justice, and donate food and goods to soup kitchens and homeless shelters.

I have always admired Dr. Martin King, Jr., but as I was finding materials and information for this essay, I read more into his goals and strive for justice, more than I ever knew, and he was truly a remarkable man.